98

Tuna Newsletter

LIBRARY

AUG 13,1990

National Marine Fisheries Service
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawaii

National Marine Fisheries Service
- **Southwest Region**
- **Southwest Fisheries Science Center**

August 1990 **Issue 98**

IN THIS ISSUE

- U.S. canned tuna industry highlights for first quarter 1990.....1
- U.S. tuna fisheries update.....3
- Japanese driftnet fishery in the South Pacific.....4
- Dolphin mortality in the U.S. tuna fishery declines in 1989 5
- Recent developments in tuna fisheries: news from around the world.....6

U.S. TUNA STATISTICS

Editor's note: The following articles were prepared by NMFS personnel from data and information gathered from sources in the U.S. tuna industry. (A. Jackson)

U.S. CANNED TUNA INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS, FIRST QUARTER 1990

Total receipts of raw tuna by U.S. canners during the first quarter of 1990 (January-March) decreased by 19% to 100,500 short tons (st) from the first quarter 1989 total (Table 1). Yellowfin tuna was the principal component of domestically caught deliveries at 23,100 st, followed by skipjack (20,300 st) and albacore (2,700 st). The gap between imports and domestic deliveries narrowed, with imports accounting for 54% of the total.

Table 1. U.S. cannery receipts (st) of domestic and imported raw tuna by species for the first quarters of 1989, 1990 and the recent (1985-89) first quarter averages.

SPECIES		Albacore	Skipjack	Yellowfin[1]	TOTAL
AMERICAN SAMOA & CALIFORNIA					
1989	Domestic	2,000	25,000	9,100	36,100
	Imported	6,000	11,000	3,600	20,600
	Total	8,000	36,000	12,700	56,700
1990	Domestic	2,700	17,800	9,900	30,400
	Imported	4,600	6,000	2,000	12,600
	Total	7,300	23,800	11,900	43,000
1985-89 Average	Domestic	700	17,200	11,200	29,100
	Imported	6,500	7,000	3,600	17,100
	Total	7,200	24,200	14,800	46,200
PUERTO RICO					
1989	Domestic	0	1,500	12,100	13,600
	Imported	20,400	16,500	17,600	54,500
	Total	20,400	18,000	29,700	68,100
1990	Domestic	*	2,500	13,200	15,700
	Imported	20,200	11,900	9,700	41,800
	Total	20,200	14,400	22,900	57,500
1985-89 Average	Domestic	*	4,200	17,500	21,700
	Imported	16,700	19,200	13,700	49,600
	Total	16,700	23,400	31,200	71,300
TOTAL					
1989	Domestic	2,000	26,500	21,200	49,700
	Imported	26,400	27,500	21,200	75,100
	Total	28,400	54,000	42,400	124,800
1990	Domestic	2,700	20,300	23,100	46,100
	Imported	24,800	17,900	11,700	54,400
	Total	27,500	38,200	34,800	100,500
1985-89 Average	Domestic	700	21,400	28,700	50,800
	Imported	23,200	26,200	17,300	66,700
	Total	23,900	47,600	46,000	117,500

*Less than 100 st reported for this category.

[1]Includes small amounts of bigeye, blackfin and bluefin tuna.

Table 2. U.S. cannery imports (st) of raw tuna by species[1] and flag of catcher vessel for first quarter of 1990. Totals for first quarter of 1989 are given for comparison.

COUNTRY	1990				1989
	ALB	SKJ	YFT[2]	TOTAL	TOTAL
BRAZIL	*	1,500	100	1,600	2,300
ECUADOR	0	2,000	2,100	4,100	3,000
FRANCE	*	2,000	800	2,800	3,800
FRENCH POLYNESIA	100	0	0	100	0
GHANA	0	3,300	2,200	5,500	8,500
JAPAN	3,100	500	0	3,600	2,500
MEXICO	0	800	1,800	2,600	1,500
PANAMA	1,400	100	*	1,500	2,700
PORTUGAL	400	0	0	400	500
SOLOMON IS.	0	200	100	300	1,000
SPAIN	0	500	100	600	2,900
S. KOREA	1,900	1,400	800	4,100	11,000
TAIWAN	18,000	*	700	18,700	19,700
VANUATU	0	1,600	600	2,200	4,500
VENEZUELA	0	800	2,500	3,300	9,600
OTHER	*	3,100	0	3,100	1,700
TOTAL	24,900	17,800	11,800	54,500	75,200

*Less than 100 st reported for this category.
[1]ALB=albacore; SKJ=skipjack; YFT=yellowfin.
[2]Includes small amounts of bigeye and blackfin tuna.

Table 3. Receipts (st) of raw tuna by U.S. canneries by species[1] and area of capture in the first quarters of 1989 and 1990.

SOURCE	1989			1990		
	ALB	SKJ	YFT[2]	ALB	SKJ	YFT[2]
E. ATLANTIC OCEAN						
DOMESTIC	0	0	0	0	0	0
IMPORTED	8,900	7,400	2,700	11,300	3,900	2,300
TOTAL	8,900	7,400	2,700	11,300	3,900	2,300
W. ATLANTIC OCEAN						
DOMESTIC	0	0	0	0	0	0
IMPORTED	1,800	2,400	100	2,000	2,100	100
TOTAL	1,800	2,400	100	2,000	2,100	100
E. PACIFIC OCEAN						
DOMESTIC	*	2,000	15,700	*	2,500	16,600
IMPORTED	0	5,400	14,300	0	4,000	6,600
TOTAL	*	7,400	30,000	*	6,500	23,200
W. PACIFIC OCEAN						
DOMESTIC	2,000	24,400	5,500	2,700	17,700	6,500
IMPORTED	8,400	7,900	2,700	6,200	6,000	2,000
TOTAL	10,400	32,300	8,200	8,900	23,700	8,500
INDIAN OCEAN						
DOMESTIC	0	0	0	0	0	0
IMPORTED	7,300	4,400	1,200	5,300	2,000	800
TOTAL	7,300	4,400	1,200	5,300	2,000	800

NOTE : FOOTNOTES SAME AS TABLE 2.

Table 4. Contract prices (U.S. $ per st) for raw skipjack and yellowfin tuna for delivery to U.S. canneries in Puerto Rico by U.S. vessels departing on trips in first quarter 1989 and 1990.

SIZE CLASS (lbs.)	SKIPJACK		YELLOWFIN	
	1989	1990	1989	1990
<3	325-335	350	325-335	325
3 to 4	575-605	570	575-605	570
4 to 7.5	770-800	775	770-800	775
7.5 to 20	850-885	860	880-910	885
>20	-	-	1,045-1,065	1,075

Albacore was the leading import at 24,800 st, followed by skipjack (17,900 st) and yellowfin (11,700 st). The leading non-U.S. supplier was Taiwan, with 34% of the import market (Table 2). Ghana was second with 5,500 st. The eastern Atlantic Ocean was the main source of albacore (11,300 st) in U.S. cannery receipts, while the western Pacific contributed the greatest quantity of skipjack (23,700 st) and the eastern Pacific the greatest quantity of yellowfin (23,200 st) (Table 3).

Contract prices for domestically caught raw tuna delivered to U.S. canners in Puerto Rico for the first quarter of 1990 differed slightly from first quarter 1989 prices (Table 4).

U.S. imports of canned tuna packed in water totaled 54,700 st for the first quarter of 1990, down 17% from the first quarter 1989 total. Wholesale list prices for canned tuna during this period were generally slightly lower (Table 5).

Doug Prescott and John Childers, SWFSC, contributed to this article.

U.S. CANNED TUNA INDUSTRY UPDATE

1990 U.S. imports of canned tuna in water totaled 74,100 st as of July 1, exceeding the import quota of 43,600 st by 70%. Imports for the same period in 1989 stood at 91,900 st.

Wholesale list prices for canned tuna as of July 6 were up from first quarter 1990 prices for white meat, while prices for light meat were at their lowest levels in over two years. The prices for white meat, advertised and private labels, were $64.50-67.15 and $52.00-54.00, respectively; light meat prices were $40.00-43.50 and $25.00-26.50, respectively.

Table 5. Wholesale list price (U.S. $ per case) for canned tuna packed in oil or water, by brand type, in the first quarter of 1989 and 1990

CASE PACK	YEAR	ADVERTISED LABEL	PRIVATE LABEL
White meat, solid	1989	64.50-67.15	50.00-54.00
12.5-oz (24)	1990	64.50-65.00	50.00-52.00
Light meat, chunk	1989	42.45-45.00	26.50-30.00
6.5-oz (48)	1990	42.45-45.00	25.00-27.00

U.S. TUNA FISHERIES UPDATE

EASTERN PACIFIC PURSE SEINE FISHERY

In 1989, 33 U.S. purse seiners caught an estimated 97,300 metric tons (mt) of tuna in the eastern tropical Pacific. Yellowfin tuna accounted for 78% (75,900 mt) of the catch and skipjack tuna 22% (21,400 mt).

During the period January through June, 1990, 30 U.S. purse seiners caught an estimated 44,300 mt of tuna, a decrease of 17% from the catch during the same period in 1989 (Figure 1). Yellowfin catch in 1990 (36,500 mt) is 5% lower than that of 1989 (38,500 mt) and skipjack catch in 1990 (7,700 mt) is 47% lower than that of 1989 (14,500 mt).

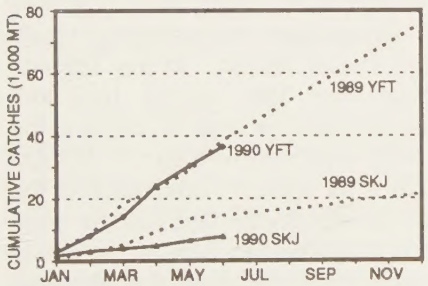

Figure 1. Cumulative tuna catches, by month, for the U.S. eastern Pacific purse seine fishery, 1989 and 1990.

WESTERN PACIFIC PURSE SEINE FISHERY

In 1989, 35 U.S. purse seiners landed over 132,000 mt of tuna, under the South Pacific Regional Tuna Treaty. Skipjack tuna accounted for 69% (91,400 mt) of the landings and yellowfin tuna 31% (41,400 mt).

During the period January through April, 1990, 32 U.S. purse seiners landed over 36,900 mt of tuna, a decrease of 19% from landings during the same period in 1989 (Figure 2). Yellowfin landings in 1990 (10,500 mt) are 57% higher than those in 1989 (6,700 mt) and skipjack landings in 1990 (26,400 mt) are 32% lower than those in 1989 (38,700 mt).

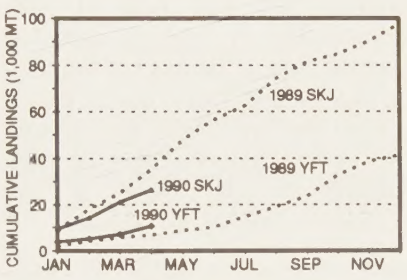

Figure 2. Cumulative tuna landings, by month, for the U.S. western Pacific purse seine fishery, 1989 and 1990.

During the new licensing period, June to June, 1990-91, the number of licenced U.S. purse seiners operating in the south Pacific is expected to increase from 35 to 50.

NORTHERN PACIFIC ALBACORE FISHERY

The 1989 U.S. albacore fishery in the north Pacific started in the first half of July and lasted through October. Catches were concentrated mainly off Oregon and Washington within 500 miles of the coast. The 1989 total catch of 1,600 mt is a record low, a decrease of 67% from catches in 1988 and a decrease of 89% from the historical 20-year average of 15,000 mt (Figure 3). Factors contributing to poor catches were decreased participation because of good salmon fishing and possible poor recruitment of albacore, as evidenced by decreasing catch rates and exceptionally small year classes.

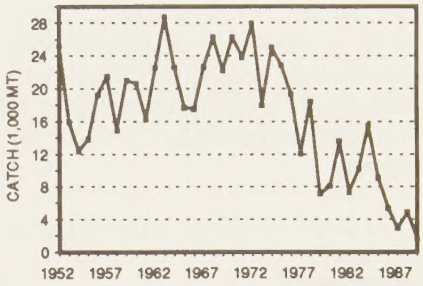

Figure 3. Seasonal catch totals for the U.S. northern Pacific albacore fishery, 1952 to 1989.

Catch rates for the U.S. fishery also showed a decreasing trend, falling over 40% from 46-fish per day in 1988 to 27-fish per day in 1989. Average sizes of fish landed remain fairly stable at approximately 5.4 kg.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC ALBACORE FISHERY

The 1988-89 U.S. albacore fishery in the south Pacific started in December, 1988, and lasted through April, 1989. Forty-six vessels participated in the fishery and landed 3,800 mt, a slight increase over catches in the 1987-88 fishery of 3,500 mt (Figure 4). The fishery operated in a very narrow area west of New Zealand and south of French Polynesia. Catch rates in the southern fishery decreased 8% from 242-fish per day in the 1987-88 fishery to 223-fish per day in the 1988-89 fishery. Average sizes of

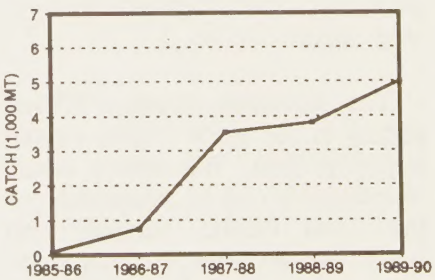

Figure 4. Seasonal catch totals for the U.S. southern Pacific albacore fishery, 1985-86 to 1989-90.

fish landed remained relatively stable at 6.8 kg.

Forty-nine vessels participated in the 1989-90 U.S. albacore fishery that started in December, 1989. Landing reports, received to date, indicate that over 4,000 mt have already been landed and total catch is expected to exceed 5,000 mt for the season.

Al Coan, SWFSC, contributed to this article.

REPORTS

Editor's note: Original reports are published as a service to subscribers and may not represent the views of the SWR or SWFSC. Readers should contact the authors of reports for details, if needed.

In a recent development relating to the following article, the Fisheries Agency of Japan announced in Tokyo that Japan will suspend driftnet fishing in the south Pacific Ocean this fall, a year earlier than the date set by a U.N. resolution.
(D. Au)

JAPANESE DRIFTNET FISHERY IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Hideki Nakano, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, 5-7-1, Orido, Shimizu 424, Japan

The Japanese albacore driftnet fishery in the south Pacific Ocean began in 1983. This fishery, which developed in part as a substitute for the north Pacific albacore and billfish driftnet fishery, occurs in the austral summer. In combination with the north Pacific fishery, it provides a year-round fishing season for the vessels.

In the albacore driftnet fishery, nets are set at sunset; retrieval, which takes several hours, is started at about midnight. Each vessel makes just one net set per day. The net is 4-6 km long and about 10 m (6-7 m in water) deep. Mesh size ranges from 165 to 220 mm, with most nets having 170-180 mm mesh. The typical Japanese driftnet vessel has a capacity of 300-400 mt and a crew of 15-20.

The fishing season in the south Pacific begins in late November to early December and ends in late February to early March. The average number of days of fishing in a season ranged from 30 to 50 during the 1983-89 period. The main fishing grounds are the central Tasman Sea and east of New Zealand (Fig. 1). Vessels enter the Tasman Sea at the start of the fishing season and shift to the area east of New Zealand late in the season. The fishing grounds east of New Zealand overlap those of the American albacore troll fishery.

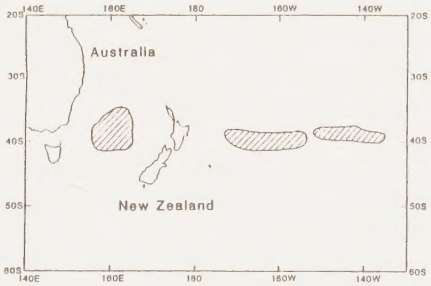

Figure 1. The main fishing grounds of the Japanese south Pacific albacore driftnet fishery.

The number of Japanese vessels operating driftnets for albacore in the south Pacific ranged seasonally from 9 to 64. The number of vessels has increased yearly due to poor fishing conditions for north Pacific albacore. In the 1988/89 fishing season, 64 Japanese vessels fished albacore in the south Pacific. Concerns over international relationships in the area led the Japanese government to unilaterally limit the number of vessels fishing driftnets in the south Pacific in the 1989/90 season to 19.

Based on the CPUE (number of albacore caught per set) calculated for each monthly $5^{o}x5^{o}$ strata for the 1988/89 fishing season, good fishing was found in the Tasman Sea in December (CPUE=991) and on the eastern edge of the fishing grounds east of New Zealand in February (CPUE=2,023). The seasonal average CPUE ranged from 253 to 937 for the 1983-89 period, with an overall average of 542. Over the same period, the average weight of albacore caught ranged from 5.0 to 6.9 kg, with an overall average of 6.0 kg. Annual total catch estimates (CPUE x average fish weight x average days fishing x number of vessels) ranged from 895 to 13,161 mt (Table 1).

Table 1. Estimates of albacore catch in the south Pacific by the Japanese driftnet fleet. (All values are tentative, as of May 18, 1990.)

Fishing Season	Catch (mt)
1983-84	1,563
1984-85	1,905
1985-86	1,919
1986-87	895
1987-88	4,234
1988-89	13,161

The size of albacore from the south Pacific fishery in the 1988/89 fishing season ranged from 40 to 90 cm in fork length. In the Tasman Sea, few fish caught had fork lengths greater than 80 cm, and the mode was less than 50 cm. In most areas off eastern New Zealand, the mode was greater than 50 cm. Fork length tended to be greater for albacore taken eastward and southward of New Zealand. East of New Zealand, in the area overlapping the U.S. troll fishery, the length frequency distributions of the U.S. catch and Japanese catch were almost the same, indicating that both fisheries target the same age classes of albacore.

The catch composition (in numbers of fish caught) seasonally since 1983 has consisted of 62-93% albacore and 3-31% skipjack tuna. No other species has constituted at

least 5% of the catch. The skipjack component of the catch has declined markedly each season. It appears that, as the albacore fishing grounds have become better known to the fishermen, they have become more adept at targeting their catch. Thus, the fishery has become highly selective for albacore over other species.

DOLPHIN MORTALITY IN U.S. TUNA FISHERY DECLINES IN 1989

Alan R. Jackson, SWFSC
P.O. Box 271
La Jolla, California 92038

The estimated number of dolphins killed in the U.S. eastern Pacific tuna purse seine fishery in 1989 was 12,643, down 36% from the estimated 1988 kill of 19,712, according to data collected by onboard observers from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). The 1989 dolphin kill was well below the allowable annual quota of 20,500, and was the lowest recorded for the U.S. fleet since 1983, when an estimated 9,589 dolphins were killed.

In 1989, NMFS observers were on board for 75 fishing trips resulting in a total of 2,204 sets on dolphins. (Data for an additional 48 trips were collected by IATTC observers, but were not available for this article.) The geographic distribution of the observed dolphin sets is given in Figure 1. Although dolphin sets were observed as far west as 148°W and as far south as 12°S, the majority of the sets occurred in three general areas: 10-13°N and 90-95°W; 10-15°N and 100-110°W; and 7-11°N and 124-138°W. The average tuna catch per dolphin set in 1989 was 18.9 st, up from the 1988 rate of 17.1 st. Average tuna catch rates for dolphin sets from 1976 to 1989 are given in Figure 2.

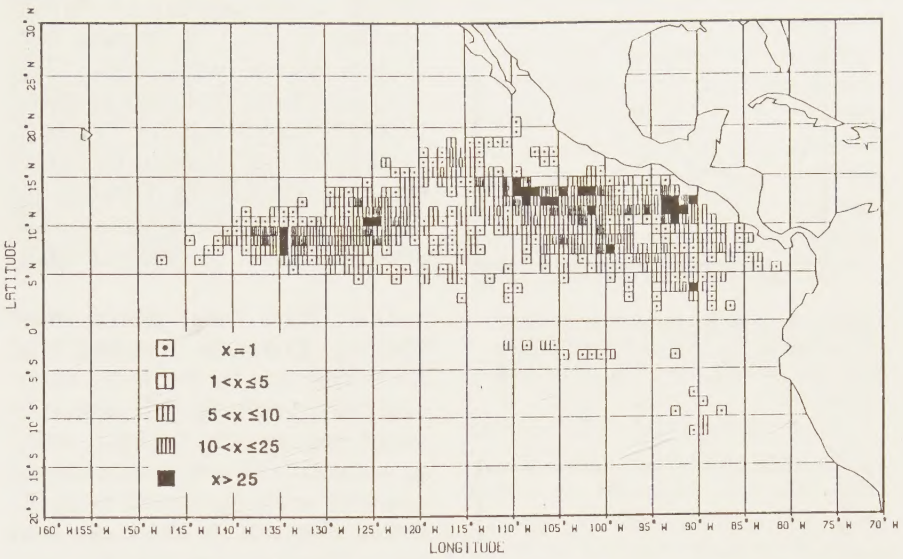

Figure 1. The number of dolphin sets, by 1° quadrats, made by U.S. tuna purse seiners carrying NMFS observers in 1989.

An area of low dolphin kill-per-ton rates (the number of dolphins killed per ton of tuna caught) in 1989 tended to be centered on 10°N and 100°W (Figure 3). Areas of higher dolphin kill rates were located along the western and southern periphery of the fishing grounds and also within 300 miles of the coastline between 7-15°N.

The observed dolphin kill-per-ton rate in 1989 was 0.20 dolphin, down 35% from the 1988 rate of 0.31 dolphin (Figure 4). The dolphin kill-per-

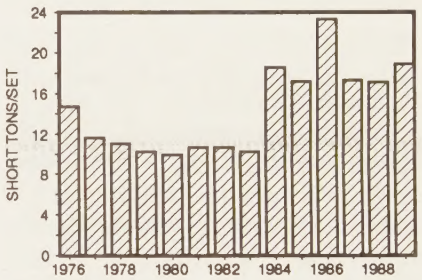

Figure 2. Average tuna catch per set on dolphins for observed U.S. trips, 1976 to 1989.

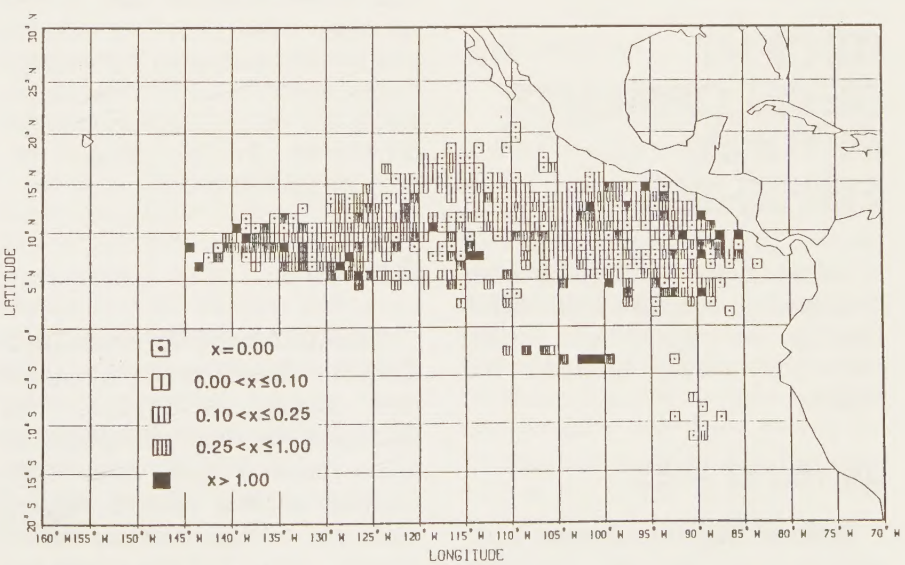

Figure 3. The dolphin kill-per-ton rates, by 1° quadrats, for U.S. tuna purse seiners carrying NMFS observers in 1989.

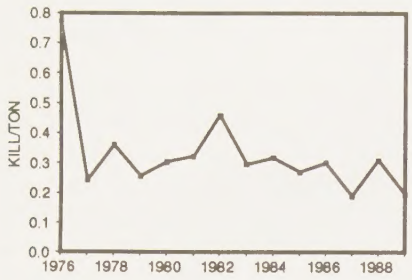

Figure 4. Average number of dolphins killed per ton of tuna caught in dolphin sets for observed U.S. trips, 1976 to 1989.

Figure 5. Average number of dolphins killed per set on dolphins for observed U.S. trips, 1976 to 1989.

set rate in 1989 was 3.7 dolphins, down 30% from the 1988 rate of 5.3 dolphins (Figure 5). After achieving tremendous improvements in dolphin kill-per-ton and kill-per-set rates in 1977, the fleet performance has remained relatively constant the past 13 years.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TUNA FISHERIES

Editor's note: The following news articles were compiled from NMFS reports, newspapers and fishery trade and industry journals. (P. Kleiber)

UNITED STATES

Bumble Bee Opens New Cannery--Bumble Bee has opened a new cannery in Santa Fe Springs, near Los Angeles, California, which should speed delivery of canned seafood to the U.S. market, particularly on the west coast. The 122,000 square foot plant receives cleaned, quick-frozen, boneless sections of tuna shipped by parent company Unicord of Thailand for canning and distribution in the U.S. (Seafood Leader, July/August 1990)

U.S. Tuna Fleet Seeks New Fishing Grounds--Following the announcement by the three major U.S. tuna canning companies to begin buying only "dolphin safe" tuna, the U.S. tuna fleet is looking all over the world for fishing grounds where dolphins do not swim with tuna. Representatives of the U.S. tuna industry have asked the Department of State (DOS) for help in contacting foreign governments in West Africa, Latin America and in countries adjacent to the Indian Ocean to ascertain the requirements for foreign fishing in their exclusive economic zones (EEZ). The tuna industry is asking what agreements and/or licenses are necessary, what are the terms and conditions for fishing access, and how much fishing licenses would cost. DOS Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries Affairs, Edward E. Wolfe, met with representatives of the U.S. tuna industry on May 30, 1990, and relayed the information received from foreign countries. The U.S. tuna industry seems most interested in prospects in the Atlantic Ocean off West Africa, and in the Indian Ocean around the Seychelles. (NMFS, Foreign Fisheries Analysis Branch)

CANADA

StarKist Closes Canadian Tuna Cannery--StarKist's only Canadian tuna cannery, at Bayside, New Brunswick Province, was scheduled to be closed in early June 1990. StarKist officials blamed lagging sales and a large inventory for the closure. About 250 jobs will be lost at Bayside; hundreds of others in the region will be affected indirectly. The Bayside cannery processed tuna brought from Puerto Rico and the Pacific fishing grounds. The cannery had reopened in August 1988 after being closed since October 1985 because of a quality control dispute with the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Prior to the 1985 closing, StarKist provided 50% of the Canadian canned tuna market. It

1990-91 TUNA MEETINGS

(Organizer; meeting type: sci=science, adm=administration)

- OCT 9-12. Third meeting of the South Pacific Albacore Research Group (SPAR-3). Noumea, New Caledonia. (South Pacific Commission; sci)
- OCT 16-19. Fourth Southeast Asian Tuna Conference. Bangkok, Thailand. (Indo-Pacific Tuna Development and Management Programme; sci)
- OCT 17-23. Third Consultation on Arrangement for South Pacific Fisheries Management. Noumea, New Caledona. (Forum Fisheries Agency; adm)
- OCT 29-NOV 2. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), species group meetings. Madrid, Spain. (ICCAT; sci)
- NOV 5-9. ICCAT, Standing Committee on Research and Statistics meeting. Madrid, Spain. (ICCAT; sci)
- NOV 12-15. ICCAT, Commission meeting. Madrid, Spain. (ICCAT; adm)
- FEB 1991. Expert Consultation on Interactions of Pacific Ocean Tuna Fisheries. Noumea, New Caledonia. (FAO; sci)

now reportedly has about 40% of the market, and was the primary producer of this product in Canada. Asian tuna exporters filled the market gap caused by the closure, and StarKist had difficulty competing when the cannery reopened. In 1988, StarKist exported 151 metric tons, worth $417,000, of Canadian-canned tuna to the United States. (NMFS, Foreign Fisheries Analysis Branch)

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Thailand Canned Tuna Industry Announces "Dolphin Safe" Policy--All 20 Thai tuna canners announced through their association that they will not purchase, process or sell any tuna caught in association with dolphins. Thai canners thus became the first to follow the U.S. lead on this issue. Almost 80% of Thai canned tuna is skipjack, coming mostly from the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific region. Yellowfin is the species that associates with dolphins, particularly in the Eastern Pacific. Thai imports of yellowfin from that region are only 2% of total imports. (INFOFISH Trade News, June 1, 1990)

SOUTH PACIFIC

South Pacific Regional Tuna Treaty Licenses 50 U.S. Seiners--The third licensing period of the South Pacific Regional Tuna Treaty commenced June 15, 1990. Fifty U.S. purse seiner applications were received, including eighteen new vessels from the eastern Pacific Fleet. The fifty vessels represent a total trip capacity of 55,735 mt. The total Treaty payment for the third licensing period is expected to be around $12.9 million, an increase of 7.5% over the last licensing period. This increase is a result of an increase in the number of vessels licensed and an increase in vessel payments. (Forum Fisheries Agency News Digest, June 1990)

Tuvalu-Japan Fishing Agreement--Tuvalu and Japan reached an agreement for the operation of Japanese tuna vessels within Tuvalu's EEZ, effective June 1, 1990, to May 31, 1991. In return for the fishing rights, Japanese vessels will be charged a registration fee of 20,000 yen ($130) per vessel and permit fees of 750,000-950,000 yen ($4,900-6,200) per voyage. (INFOFISH Trade News, June 30, 1990)

AFRICA

Angola-EC Fishing Agreement--Angola signed its third fishing agreement with the European Community (EC) for the period 1990-92. The agreement allows 28 EC tuna freezer vessels (13 French and 15 Spanish) to fish in Angola's EEZ. It also grants access to 5 Portuguese tuna vessels, 2 trawlers (probably Greek or Italian) and 24 Spanish shrimp vessels. The EC will pay $14 million for this access, plus $700,000 for scientific research programs and $480,000 to the Helder Nato Maritime School. (NMFS, Foreign Fisheries Analysis Branch)

Cape Verde-EC Fishing Agreement--Cape Verde and the EC have entered into a three-year agreement giving fishing rights to 21 EC tuna seiners as well as 24 tuna pole-and-line and long-liners. In return, the EC will compensate Cape Verde ECU 1.95 million ($1.6 million), payable in three equal annual installments. (INFOFISH Trade News, June 30, 1990)

Ivory Coast-EC Fishing Agreement--Ivory Coast and the EC have entered into a three-year agreement giving fishing rights to 54 EC tuna seiners and 35 longline and pole-and-line vessels. In return, the EC will compensate Ivory Coast ECU 2 million ($1.64 million) per year. Vessel owners will pay ECU 20 ($16.40) per metric ton of tuna caught. (INFOFISH Trade News, June 30, 1990)

Mauritius-Seychelles Tuna Agreement--A fishing agreement was signed May 30, 1990, between the Governments of Mauritius and Seychelles, allowing five Mauritian purse seiners and one long-liner to fish in Seychelles' EEZ for the next two years. The Mauritian Government also plans to sign a fishing agreement with the EC in the next few months. (NMFS, Foreign Fisheries Analysis Branch)

Morocco-Japan Fishing Agreement--On May 18, 1990, Morocco and Japan agreed to extend the terms of the 1989 agreement allowing Japanese tuna long-lining off the coast of Morocco for the 1990 season. During the last four seasons, the amount of bluefin tuna landed has increased from 11 to 273 tons, although in 1987 as much as 493 tons of bluefin were landed. During the 1989 season, 22 Japanese long-liners fished and their total catch was 140 tons of tuna. The 1990 agreement allows 30 Japanese long-liners to fish beyond 20 miles off the coast of Morocco. As in prior years, it is likely that bluefin tuna will comprise over 90% of the total catch. The fishing permit fee remained at $3,600 per vessel for three months with an extension fee of $1,200 per vessel for one month. The Japanese tuna industry agreed to provide equipment worth $50,000 to Morocco as a grant, double the amount given in 1988. (NMFS, Foreign Fisheries Analysis Branch)

Senegal-EC Fishing Agreement--Senegal and the EC initialled a two-year fishery agreement in Dakar. Under the agreement, Senegal will grant fishing rights to 68 EC tuna vessels, of which at least 20 will land their catches in Senegalese ports. In return, the EC will pay Senegal direct financial compensation as well as financing for a scientific program and study grants for Senegalese students in fishery disciplines in Europe. In addition, vessel owners will pay FCFA 2 per kilo ($7.00 per metric ton) of fish landed in Senegal and FCFA 7 per kilo ($24.50 per mt) landed outside

Senegal. (INFOFISH Trade News, June 16, 1990)

Sierra Leone-EC Fishing Agreement–The EC negotiated a new agreement with Sierra Leone for fishing opportunities for EC tuna and deep-sea fleets. The deal involves fishing licenses for 46 deep-sea tuna vessels and 43 pole-and-line and long-liners fishing for tuna and other migratory species. Financial compensation is to be fixed at ECU 4.99 million ($4.12 million) a year. The agreement will come into effect once it's formalized. (INFOFISH Trade News, June 1, 1990)

Southwest Regional Office
300 South Ferry Street
Terminal Island, California 90731

E. Charles Fullerton, Director

Southwest Fisheries Science Center
8604 La Jolla Shores Drive
P.O. Box 271,
La Jolla, California 92038

Izadore Barrett, Science and Research Director, Southwest Region
Gary Sakagawa, Tuna Program Coordinator

PUBLICATION STAFF

Alan Jackson, Production
David Au, Reports
Pierre Kleiber, Fisheries Developments
Pat Donley, Statistics
Ken Raymond, Art Director
Karen Handschuh, Circulation

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
SOUTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER
8604 LA JOLLA SHORES DR.- P.O. BOX 271
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92038

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

SAN DIEGO, CA 921
PM
9 AUG
990

U.S.MAIL

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
COM-210

AIR MAIL

LIBRARY, HONOLULU LABORATORY
NMFS/NOAA (F/SWC2)
2570 DOLE STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96822-2396